

Florida Olive Report

Making Florida Olive Oil in 2014



(l-r) Michael O'Hara Garcia and Don Mueller

Marianna, FL - A beautiful crop of *Mission* olives was harvested 16 October from Don Mueller's Green Gate Olive Grove in Jackson County, FL. The fruit was carried to Georgia Olive Farms (Lakeland, GA) where it was milled into Extra Virgin Olive Oil. Mueller is a pioneer Florida olive grower and has been growing several different olive varieties on his five-acre grove since 1999.

Michael O'Hara Garcia, president of the Florida Olive Council described the 2014 Florida olive harvest as a significant first step. "Much more research is needed to determine if olives can be a long-term viable crop; but the 2014 harvest helps demonstrate we can produce olives and olive oil in Florida."



Shaw Brothers Olive Mill

At left, Kevin Shaw of Georgia Olive Farms, mills the 2014 Florida olive crop using his new olive mill. The Shaws grow 50+ acres of olives near Valdosta, GA and have produced olive oil for the past three years. They also provide milling services for Florida and Georgia olive growers.



Workers harvest olives in Jackson County, FL



Florida Olive Oil



Taste of Florida Oil

The Florida Olive Council, LAA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering a sustainable olive industry for Florida. Registered IRS 501(c)(3).

www.floridaolivecouncil.org

© 2014 Florida Olive Council, LAA



UF-IFAS Focus on Olive Pests



Sandra Allen, Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman and Jonael Bosques

Notes

Gainesville - Entomologists from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) surveyed Florida olive groves during August-September 2014 and published the first research study on pests affecting olive trees in Florida. The paper, *Pests and Fungal Organisms Identified on Olives (Olea europaea) in Florida* is available through local IFAS Extension offices and the [IFAS website](#).



Live Oak - The Carter Brothers show off their new olive mill located at their 30 acre olive grove by the Suwannee River. The Carters will mill their first fruit Fall 2015 and offer milling services to other local olive growers.

Olive Council Board Visits Mosaic



(l-r) Tom Pospichal, Mosaic Land Manager, FOC board members James Ferman and Paul Pizzo and David Crum, Mosaic Grove Manger

Bowling Green - Mosaic Corporation, an international phosphate and potash provider, is a Florida Olive Council Research Partner experimenting with olives on re-claimed phosphate land near Tampa.

Mosaic is a leader in land restoration and support for Florida farmers. They will plant an additional 500 olive trees in Spring 2015.